

Alastair Walter, our Librarian, decided to see if there was anything in our library material about this perfin. He has found some additional information which appears to give the answer.

Library Abstract Number 0208 is an article from "**Morley's Philatelic Journal Vol.13 (1902) Page 47**". The piece reads:- *Crete. British Sphere of Administration. Our publisher has discovered the local stamp of 1898, 20 parades, mauve on yellowish wove paper instead of on the usual white laid paper. The stamp is perforated with the number "28 " the significance of which is unknown to us. It is obliterated by a large single lined circle containing the Union Jack and the words "KANDIA " below, in a similar style to the design of the Fiscal, Type 1, which we illustrated last month.*

Library Abstract 0372 is a translation of an article from "**Philotelia, April 1969, Vol. 46, Page 54-55**". The article is entitled "Perfins of Greece and Crete by S.J.Macrimichalos. The relevant part of this article for our purposes is:- *"Regarding the perfin of Crete, we should add the hand made stamps of the British Administration of Crete (issued 1898 with 20 para denomination), which as we know, were also issued as perfins in very small quantities, with the number 28 being the control number of the agent of the Austrian Lloyd in Heraclion Crete (See G.B. Zouridos. The First Stamps of the British Occupation of Heraclion, "Philotelia", 1935, Page 27.)"*

After receiving this information I wrote to Jim Macaskie (See Bulletin 320 Pg.19) so their specialist Society would have the explanation but primarily to see if he could throw some light on the meaning of **Austrian Lloyd**. I am grateful for the following answer

"I am delighted with the explanation of the "28" perfin, and I am most grateful to your Librarian, Alastair Walter, for his work to find library material about it.

It is clear from the extract of 1902 that nothing was known about it at the time, even though it was then of recent origin.

The extract from Philotelia in 1969 provides the first definitive explanation which I have seen. It is surprising that this information has not been more widely known until now. The only remaining puzzle, which we are never likely to solve, is why the Austrian Lloyd agency decided to apply this perfin to a very small quantity of stamps.

The first explanation which comes to mind is that the Austrian Post Office used it on stamps required for mail passing through their hands to external destinations. This could be supported by the cover with a strip of these sent from Temenos to Kandia, except that these two places are both within the British Zone, and this cover is overpaid to such an extent that it must have been philatelically-inspired.

The explanation for **AUSTRIAN LLOYD** is fairly simple:-

Austrian Lloyd was a shipping company which operated widely in the Levant prior to World War I. It began to establish agencies in various ports as early as 1836. In Crete it had agencies in Canea, Rethymno and Candia by 1858. These seem to have started as shipping agencies, but in some cases became Consular Agencies and Austrian Post Offices, providing external mail facilities and ships to carry the mails."

Jim named **Austrian Post Offices Abroad, Parts 1 & 8** by Tchilinghirian & Stephen and **Stamps of the Levant Post Offices** by D.B.Armstrong, 1913 (reprinted 1972) as source material.